



# From the Alumni Office

*Written by Allison Gardner*

**A**round 130 LeTourneau students will be going to 18 different locations across the United States and Mexico to serve in a variety of mission outreach opportunities. During spring break, the LeTourneau Singers will be traveling to Houston, Dallas, Austin and San Antonio to perform in a variety of venues including highs schools, the capitol rotunda and churches. Alumni events are being planned in Houston and Dallas. Information about times and places will be coming soon!

We are looking for alumni and friends to host the singers in their homes during the tour. Homes are needed in Houston, San Antonio, Austin and Dallas. If you are interested in being a host family for a LeTourneau singer, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 800-259-2586 or e-mail us at [alumni@letu.edu](mailto:alumni@letu.edu). Hosts are needed for the following dates:

Houston, Texas — March 12, 13, 14    San Antonio, Texas — March 15 and 16  
Austin, Texas — March 17 and 18    Dallas, Texas — March 19 and 20

Also, I want to share how special Homecoming 2003 was. This was a great time of remembrance as more than 150 alumni from all different eras came back to LeTourneau for the annual weekend. During the dinner celebration we recognized outstanding alumni and honored reunion groups including LeTourneau Aviation Society (LAS) and the classes of 1953 and 1958.

## 2003 Homecoming Honorees



*Alumni award recipients honored during the 2003 Homecoming dinner celebration were, from left, Alumnus of the Year Dwayne King '65; Honorary Alumnus of the Year Dr. Alvin O. Austin; GOLD (Graduate Of the Last Decade) Award recipient Erica Coldwell Horst '95; and Distinguished Service Award recipient Kent Wilson '66. Note: In our last NOW issue, we incorrectly stated that Wilson was a Vietnam veteran, when actually he was reclassified three weeks prior to graduation and had already signed a contract with the LeTourneau manufacturing plant to train welders involved in a military contract. As a result, he served the war effort from Longview. Kent has held a longtime interest in veteran's rights and a passion for ensuring that veterans receive honor and recognition upon returning home.*

## Homecoming 2004

Make plans now to be on campus in October for Homecoming 2004! The following is a list of planned reunions and possible reunions for some special living areas and student organizations. If you would like to help plan any of the reunions, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 800-259-2586 or e-mail us at [alumni@letu.edu](mailto:alumni@letu.edu).

### Planned reunions include:

Class of 1954 – 50th reunion, Class of 1964 – 40th reunion, Class of 1979 – 25th reunion.

### Possible reunions for Homecoming 2004 include:

Flooders reunion, Club reunion, 41 reunion, Student Government reunion, entering class of 1994–10th reunion.

## Upcoming events

**March 13-21:** Spring break, **April 2004:** Chicagoland get together, **April 2:** Hootenanny, **April 3:** Intersociety rope pull, **April 6:** Welding alumni reception at the AWS Expo in Chicago, Ill.



# Class Notes

## MEMORIALS

Joe D. Crane ('49 WT) died Sept. 11, 2003. He was retired from the United States Army and lived in Belton, Texas.



Dr. Elton Archer Sr. ('49 MES) died Jan. 4, 2004, in Longview, Texas. Dr. Archer was a professor emeritus of LeTourneau University where he taught for 38 years. He is survived by his wife, Lorene Archer, three children, 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. The Archers celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary July 24, 2003.

Allen C. "Jimmy" Smith ('52 ES) died Oct. 21, 2003, in Covington, Tenn.

Don E. Landis ('62 MT) died Sept. 28, 2003, from cancer. He is survived by his wife, Julia Landis of Longview, Texas. Don was instrumental in the renovation and restoration of Speer Chapel, located on the LeTourneau University campus.



Carol R. Reed ('69 ME) died Feb. 20, 2003, in Clearwater, Fla.



Marty Donner ('79 ATBS) died July 3, 2003, in a pyrotechnics warehouse explosion in Kilgore, Texas.

Steven Bennett ('80 EE) died Feb. 17, 2003.

Sheri Schultz ('85 BUBS) died May 31, 2003, from cancer. She is survived by her husband, Gregory Schultz ('85 CSE), and son William.

## BIRTHS

Ken ('87 ATBS) and Sherry (Coy) ('88 ATBS) Eaves announce the birth of son, Will Bryant Eaves, born June 9, 2003.



Jeff Knop ('87 BUBS) and wife, Hayley, announce the birth of daughter, Chloe Elizabeth, born July 8, 2003.



Jill (Stjernstrom) Young ('87 BUBS) and husband, Doug, live in Beckville, Texas, with their son, Ross, who was born Dec. 10, 2001. Jill is a stay-at-home

mom. Grandparents are former LeTourneau employees Jim and Kay Stjernstrom of Prosper, Texas.

Alan Swartz ('92 BUDT) and wife, Michelle, announce the birth of their first child, Howard Nathan, who was born June 11, 2002. Alan is a senior electrical designer for Howe-Baker. The Swartz family resides in Tyler, Texas.



Jill (Gaiser) Eckard ('93 ED) and husband, Brian, announce the birth of Dillon Joseph on Feb. 21, 2003. The Eckards live in Flower Mound, Texas. Grandfather is LeTourneau professor Joe Gaiser.

Phillip ('93 CS) and Johanna (Klotz) ('93 HIPL) Pierson announce the birth of daughter, Caroline, born June 5, 2003.



They have three other children: Jacqueline, Spencer and John. Grandparents are John ('67 ME) and Betsy (Rostollan) ('69) Klotz.

John Cross ('94 ME) and wife, Jenny, announce the birth of son, Jake Taylon, who was born June 8, 2003.

Peter ('95 ATET) and Bridget (Kulp) ('94) Herr had their fourth child on May 29, 2003. Danielle Liana joins siblings Jessica, 5; Charles, 4; and Kimberly, 2.



Johan Baik ('95 HIPL) and wife, Yoonha, announce the birth of Aaron M., who was born July 26, 2003. Johan currently serves as a U.S. Navy chaplain with the Marines of Combat Service Support Battalion 10 and is stationed in Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Jon ('95 WE) and Angel ('95 MT) Rupert announce the arrival of Savannah Joy on Oct. 10, 2003.



Matt ('95 ATBS) and Beth (Paschal) ('94 CSMA) Ruwe announce the birth of Luke Michael, born April 16, 2003. The couple has another son, Jake.

Mark L. Myers ('96 ET) and wife, Christy, announce the birth of Blake Thomas on Sept. 1, 2003. The Myers live in Roseburg, Ore., where Mark works as an engineer for Caddock Electronics.



Mark Navratil ('96 ATET) and wife, Kathleen, announce the birth of Zarya Christelle on Sept. 30, 2003. The couple also has a son, Skyler.

Ben ('96 ATBU) and Marli (Graff) ('97 BYBS) Hickin announce the birth of Marlila "Lily" Kathryn on Nov. 7, 2003. The couple



has three other children: Ty, Bo and Mickey. The Hickin family lives in Spottswood, Va., where Ben is a captain with Colgan Air flying US Air Express. Marli is a stay-at-home mother and home schooler. Grandparents are Bill and Igglis Graff of LeTourneau University.





Leonard Prater ('96 MABA) and wife, Deena, announce the birth of Allison Leigh, born Oct. 25, 2002. Leonard received his master's degree from Southwestern Theological Seminary in December 2000. He is now minister of education and associate pastor of Sandy Plains Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga. Deena, who has a master's degree from Texas A&M University, works as a CPA.

Jason Duhs ('97 ATBS) and wife, Kathy, announce the birth of Joshua Aaron, born May 8, 2003.

Jason Phipps ('99 ATFL) and wife, Shawna, announce the birth of Zachary Andrew, born Aug. 15, 2003.



Andrew Foland ('00 BBM & '02 MBA) and wife, Jeannie, announce the birth of their second child, Adeline Rae, born Nov. 10, 2003.



Jason ('01 ASAE) and Jaime (Benge) ('00 BUMK) Brewer announce the birth of Dylan Michael on Oct. 7, 2003.

Natalie Ervin DeMoure ('02 BBM) and husband, Allen, announce the birth of Nash Augustus, born Dec. 9, 2002. The DeMoure family lives in Sherman, Texas.

## MARRIAGES

Donald Green ('49 MT) married Nancy B. Jones July 13, 2002. The Greens live in Burleson, Texas.

Jeff Johnson ('82 BUBS) married Mary Beth Freitag June 14, 2003. The Johnsons live in Waxhaw, N.C., where they work with Wycliffe.



Karen L. Brown ('97 ENE1) and John E. Morris ('98 ME) were married July 26, 2003, in Longview, Texas.

William T. Sherman ('96 MAE1) married Amanda Hicks Aug. 2, 2003, in Longview, Texas.



David Paschal ('98 MT) married Samantha McCleery April 26, 2003, in Dolyestown, Penn.

Michelle Rommel ('01 ISEL) married Luke Bader Aug. 22, 2003. They currently live in Vancouver, Wash., where Michelle is an elementary teacher.

Clara Edge ('02 BUBS) married Kyle Danielson Nov. 22, 2003, in North Bend, Wash.

Ryan S. Scott ('02 ASMG) married Kelly S. Smith ('02 ISEL) Aug. 30, 2003, in Katy, Texas. They currently live in Bridgewater, Va.

Andrew J. Duncalfe ('03 HIPL) married Querida Stafford Dec. 24, 2003 in Longview, Texas. Andrew works in the Web development department at LeTourneau University, and Querida is completing her senior year at LeTourneau.



David Wahl ('02 ME) married Eilidh Anderson Aug. 30, 2003, in Warner, Alberta, Canada. David is employed by GE Wind in Tehachapi, Calif.

Chance Pate ('03 ISBS) married Ellen Bourcier July 26, 2003, in Longview, Texas.



Sean Smith ('03 EE) married Nora King June 21, 2003.



Andrew Steiger ('03 ME) and Whitney Gipson ('03) were married Dec. 27, 2003, at First Baptist Church in Big Sandy, Texas. The Steigers reside in Platteville, Wis.,

where Andrew works for John Deere as an engineer.

## 1950s

David Girdner ('58) and wife, Rita, have been traveling this year. Dave retired from Honeywell International after 42 years at Goldstone Deep Space Tracking Station. His job centered on pointing the narrow beam large dish antennas receiving

transmissions from spacecraft such as Voyagers I and II from beyond the solar system.

## 1970s



Dr. Stephen LaFleur ('72 BUBS) and Duc Van Lam ('73) recently met together in Houston after 15 years.

Ken ('73 ATBS) and Leanne Bailey celebrated 25 years with Wycliffe Bible Translators this summer. The Baileys have been home-based since 1991 and live in Lancaster, SC.



Keith Wyckoff ('74 WE) wearing the radio headset, was in LeMans, France, this summer competing with the Jim Matthews Racing team in Riley Technologies' MkIIIc race car. Only 15 hours into the 24-hour race, the engine lost oil pressure and they called it quits. Keith currently works for Fabcar Engineering.

David Goodell ('74 TD) currently works for Fry Reglet. David lives in Glendale, Ariz., with his wife, Sherleen.

Ron ('75 ATBS) and Jackie Banks celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary this summer. The Banks live in California where they work for MAF.

Woody Roland ('76 AT) lives in Costa Rica where he is the Latin America Regional Director for International Teams, which has 63 missionaries serving in six Latin American countries. He also is part of the Executive Team of International Teams, which oversees 600 missionaries in 43 countries around the world.

Carl ('77 ME) and Pamela Stutsman work with JAARS in Waxhaw, N.C.





# Class Notes Continued



Alumni from the class of 1978 gathered on graduation day May 2003, in Reading, Penn., to celebrate a 25th anniversary reunion lunch. Some of these friends had not seen each other in 15 years. From left are Lee ('78 CHBS) and Gloria Beachy; Deb (Mayo) ('78 PEBS) and Nate ('78 MTAT) Saint; Phil ('78 MTAT) and Marge Yorgey; and Dave ('78 MT) and Carol Stoltzfus.

John Mantell ('78 MI) and wife, Carroll, are currently working with JAARS in Waxhaw, N.C. Previously, they worked for 20 plus years in Suriname with Wycliffe doing literacy and vernacular media.

Randy Hartman ('79 MTAT), after 24 years with Rockwell Collins, has ventured out into his own business building custom experimental aircraft. Alpha Omega Aircrafters in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, builds aircraft ranging from Lance Air to RV.

## 1980s

Mark Kerk ('81 ETWT) and wife, Carol, work with HCJB World Radio. They live in Indiana with their children, David and Sharon.



Steve Erickson ('85 ATBS) and wife, Lauren, live in Flower Mound, Texas, with their children, Kelby,

Zoe and Lauren. Steve currently works for Northwest Airlines as a pilot.

David Leppelmeier ('82 ATBU) was made commanding officer of Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 on July 8, 2003, in Twentynine Palms, Calif. Dave is a colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps and has a distinguished career as a marine pilot.

Lynn Showalter ('84 WTMT) completed the 2003 American Welding Society Leadership



Symposium held this summer in Miami, Fla. Lynn is chairman of the AWS Tidewater Section which represents the North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia areas. Lynn and his wife, Jeannette, live in Newport News, Va., where Lynn is a Senior Project Welding Engineer III for Newport News Shipbuilding.



Carey Holmquist ('86 MI) visited the LeTourneau campus this fall, recruiting for upcoming EuroTeam projects.

As director, Carey supervised more than 20 projects in 13 European countries in 2003. Carey and his wife, Holly, would love to get a group of alumni and friends to help with a project. For more information, go to [www.euro-team.org](http://www.euro-team.org) or e-mail [euorteam@GEMission.com](mailto:euorteam@GEMission.com).

Larry Whiting ('86 ATBS) and wife, Linda, are serving their fifth term with MAF in Indonesia. They just completed a six-month furlough in the U.S. with their children, Daniel, Robert, Michael and Carolyn.



Jeff ('88 ME) and Dawn (Gregg) ('88 ME) Pearson live in Kent, Wash., with their five children. They adopted Chloe Sophia, born Feb. 7, 2002, and are in the process of adopting her brother,

Malichai Thomas, born July 10, 2003. Other siblings are Gabrielle, 13; Isaac, 10; and Elijah, 4.

Simon Wang ('88 ATBS) and wife, Mary, live in Virginia where Simon is an IT Specialist for CHM. They have five children: Caleb, Joseph, Mary-Louise, Nathaniel and Jeremiah.



## 1990s

John ('92 WT) and Kathy Clow currently live in Costa Rica where they are in language study. They work with Mission to the World.



Stan Cundiff ('92 ATBI) and wife, Merrily, live in Sao Paulo, Brazil, with their three children, Rachel, Scott and

Sarah. Stan works at Cessna Aircraft as a "tech rep" for the Citation corporate jet division.

Justin Baba ('94 ATBS) graduated from Texas A&M University Aug. 15, 2003, with a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering. Justin currently works at Oak Ridge National Laboratory with the engineering science and technology division. Justin and wife, Carmen, live in Knoxville, Tenn.

Doug ('93 BUBS) and Sherie (Seidel) ('93 BUBS) Harvey live in Tabernacle, N.J., with daughters, Megan, 3, and Alli, 18 months. Doug works for Classic Floors and races a Legend race car in this spare time. Sherie stays busy with a ministry to mothers of preschoolers. In 2003 they celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary.



Kari Johnson ('96 HIE1) lives in Sugar Land, Texas, where she is the assistant principal of Fort Bend Baptist Elementary School.

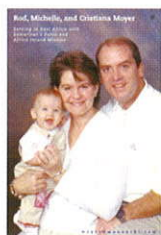


Keith Getz ('96 ATFL) is a first officer for Southwest Airlines flying 737s. Keith is currently based in Phoenix and



resides in Kilgore, Texas, with his wife Jenny (Cox) (BYBS '96). Jenny works for Steelman Industries.

Mike Hensley ('95 MBA) and wife, Carol, purchased Reflection Printing, a full-service commercial printer in Houston. Mike can be reached at [mikehensley@reflectionprint.com](mailto:mikehensley@reflectionprint.com) or go to their Web site [www.reflectionprint.com](http://www.reflectionprint.com).



Rod Moyer ('94 ATBS), his wife, Michelle, and daughter, Cristiana, live in Kenya where they serve with Samaritan's Purse and AIM.

Dustin ('97 ME) and Jamie (Seim) ('96 BYE2) Hess currently live in Poison, Mont. Dustin works as a manufacturing engineer for Jore Corporation.

Michael Mensendick ('97 BSBM) graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary in May 2003, with a master's in Christian education

and is teaching at Rowlett Christian Academy. Michael plans to continue his education at DTS working toward entrance into the Ph.D. program in theology.



Bryan ('98 ATDT) and Kendi Jo (Kampschroeder) ('99) Fiscus and their daughter, Jenna Leigh, live in Wichita, Kan., where Bryan works for Cessna Aircraft.

Lorraine Irby ('98 BSBM) received her Juris Doctorate in December 2001, and passed the Texas state bar in March 2002. She joined Matthew Wade Hancock, attorney at law of Fort Worth, Texas, and formed Hancock and Irby LLP.

Jim ('98 ME) and Jennie (Harris) ('99 BUBA) Johnson and their daughter, Audrey, live in Las Cruces, N.M.

## 2000s

Nathaniel Powell ('00 MTAT) now works for Bell Helicopter as a propulsion design engineer. He and wife, Katherine, live in Fort Worth, Texas.

Charles Landrum ('00 HIPL) is pursuing a Master of Arts in Biblical Studies through Dallas Theological Seminary's extension program. Charles also works in sales operations for Bell South Business Systems. He and wife, Charmaine, live in Hickory Flat, Ga.

Jonathan "Jay" Slager ('00 ME) is a naval aviator and made a quick stop at East Texas Regional Airport this summer.

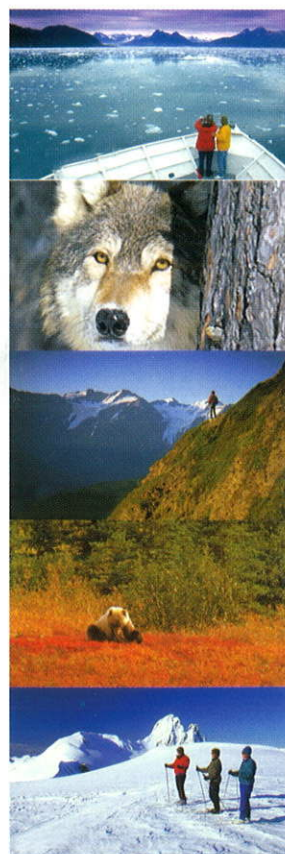


Jason A. Jones ('01 BBA) currently lives in Tyler, Texas, where he works for Merck Pharmaceuticals as a sales representative.

Glenda Breeding ('03 BBA) graduated magna cum laude in May 2003 and is currently working for Shell Chemical Company in Houston, Texas.



Ryan Veenstra ('03 ASAE) served as a volunteer this past summer with AIM-AIR in Kenya. Ryan currently works as a flight instructor for LeTourneau University.



# Alaskan Adventure

August 5 - 8, 2004 Port Alsworth, Alaska

Get ready for the time of your life during LeTourneau University's summer Alaskan adventure! Join fellow alumni and friends for four days and three nights of excitement, spiritual encouragement and outdoor adventure in picturesque Port Alsworth, Alaska. LeTourneau alumni already planning to attend include J.C. Harder ('61), Dwayne King ('65), Joel Natwick ('84), James ('85) and Sharon ('87) Walsh, and Allison ('99) and Jason ('96) Gardner.

President Dr. Alvin O. Austin and his wife, Sammie, will be with us for this exciting event, and world renowned evangelist and LeTourneau alum Franklin Graham will be a guest speaker.

You will get the chance to fellowship with these and other LeTourneau alumni and friends as you revel in the breathtaking Alaskan scenery. Once in Port Alsworth, you can stay at a local Bible camp or at one of the town's bed and breakfasts. Each day, you will dine with fellow travelers and go on a number of special wildlife viewings and sightseeing adventures.

If you want to see even more of Alaska, there will be additional tour opportunities to the Kenai Peninsula and the Denali National Park for the week prior to and immediately following our time in Port Alsworth. Denali National Park boasts North America's tallest mountain, Mt. McKinley, as well such arctic wildlife as grizzly bears, Dall sheep and moose. The Kenai Peninsula is located directly south of Anchorage and features dramatic scenery and many sightseeing opportunities. Trip costs and itineraries will be available soon. Minimums apply for best rates.

Reserve your spot today by contacting the Office of Alumni & Parent Relations at 1-800-259-2586 or [alumni@letu.edu](mailto:alumni@letu.edu). Be sure and sign up for our information distribution list.



# High Tech, Low Touch

*Written by Amy Halbert*

*Photograph by Tom Barnard*

In today's technologically fueled world, bigger does not always mean better. In less than a decade, the Internet has helped create what are known as "brick and click" libraries. Libraries such as LeTourneau's Margaret Estes Library are no longer judged solely for their size or the number of volumes on the shelves. Because libraries now have access to larger libraries' print holdings, there are very few requests for information that librarians cannot fill.

LeTourneau University students, faculty, staff and the Longview community are reaping the benefits of this explosion of accessibility to an almost endless supply of information.

Caroline Geer, the library's coordinator of information services, started her library career at LeTourneau in 1996. In these past seven years, she has seen radical changes in the way the library funnels information to students and the public. For example, netLibrary is a Web site that offers over 35,500 full-text books that library users can browse, search and even check out online. The library also has access to 44 mega-electronic databases with 16,769 full-text journal articles, in addition to dictionaries, encyclopedias, historical archives, government documents, periodical abstracts, conference proceedings and more.

Geer likes to think of the library as a gateway to information. "Our library users do not have to be on campus, or even in the country, to access the library's Web site and the 'hidden Internet' of electronic information," she said. "All that is required is a computer and a LetNet account. The rest is up to them." This means traditional students can easily access the library's Web site from their residence halls or apartments. Distance education and GAPS students can perform most of their research from home.

That kind of convenience is a major benefit of these new online search tools. Once logged in, users have access to the library's computer catalog and databases. They can check the status of a particular holding or fill out an interlibrary loan form. They also can save some pocket change by e-mailing themselves full-text journal articles instead of digging for dimes to print copies in the library.

Access to these online databases and e-books has quadrupled the library's holdings, Geer said. "Half of our holdings are in print and microfiche, and the other half is online."

LeTourneau's library staff constantly monitors new technology innovations and spent \$82,500 on upgrades in 2002 from the Texas State TIF grants for libraries. Upgrades included doubling the number of public terminals, upgrading a work station to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and adding six wireless laptops and a wireless hub. The Glaske Center for Engineering, Technology and Science is the only other building on campus that offers wireless connectivity.

While she is excited about all the benefits of the new technology in the library, Geer points out that there is a downside to all this 21st century convenience. The major drawback is the rapid rate at which the technology changes and advances. What is top-of-the-line today can be bottom-of-the-heap tomorrow. Archivists at presidential libraries around the country are learning firsthand how changing technology can make their work almost impossible. For example, Geer said that many are finding it difficult to transfer old sound and video recordings to new forms of data storage. "The technology they were created with is no longer there," she said. "Technology is fragile, and you don't know how long it will last. So how do you preserve the past?"

There also is the matter of how to archive Web pages. Information on the Internet is being lost almost as fast as it is created. Some librarian groups are working to catalog the Internet, but it is creating enormous digital files, and storage is becoming an issue. This rapid rate of change can create headaches for researchers' and writers' documentation. In the long journey to scholarly publication, there is the very real possibility that a URL referenced in an article could change before publication, which would make the scholar's careful documentation suddenly incorrect.

However convenient these online databases are, not everything is online. Researchers will still have to resort to hands-on detective work to find certain items. To delve deeply into a topic requires more than a topical overview on the computer. "Depth of knowledge is as important as quantity," Geer said. "Still, it's a good place to start."

With all this readily available information facing students, one of the most common problems researchers face is how to deal with information overload. When faced with hundreds of databases featuring thousands of pages of material, it may be difficult for library users to decide which database will best fulfill their needs. Many professors help their students by scheduling tours of the library to familiarize their students with the library and its functions. Others can just ask; LeTourneau librarians are happy to help. ■







# Young Alumni

---

# Make a Difference

**R**ecent LeTourneau University graduates are reaching into their hearts and pocketbooks to dispel the notion that only older alumni have the financial means to create and sustain a LeTourneau scholarship. Two new scholarships initiated by LeTourneau alumni from the 1980s and 1990s are endowed by Fly For Him and The Armada Foundation.

"Most people think you have to be rich to set up a scholarship—at least that is what I always thought," said **John Blatchley** (1995), founder of the Fly For Him Scholarship.

Blatchley is an airplane salesman for Cutter Aviation in Los Angeles where he and his wife, Sookhee, live with their two daughters, Lily and Bella. Blatchley wanted to give something back to his alma mater, and at first considered making a \$10,000 donation to the school. However, after a conversation with Bryan Benson, director of development, Blatchley discovered he could set up a scholarship with the money and be involved in helping future LeTourneau graduates.

"It's exciting. I didn't have to have lots of money to set it up. I think more would do the same if they knew about planned giving," Blatchley said. "LeTourneau is spiritually a good place to be, and I know God wants us to support it."

The Fly For Him Scholarship, which awards \$1,000 annually, is for a full-time LeTourneau aviation student with a minimum grade point average of 3.4. A scholarship committee chooses the recipient, who must evidence a Christian commitment, personal initiative and potential as a student and graduate of LeTourneau. Luke Taylor LaCelle of Clinton Corners, N.Y., a junior flight science major, was the 2003 recipient of the Fly For Him Scholarship.

The Armada Foundation was founded by eight



Top row, from left: Alex Kuvshnikov, Kimio Inoue, Miguel Casas and Manuel Contag. Bottom row: Matt Smith, Mark Kuvshnikov, John Kuvshnikov and Norio Tsuchiya.

alumni, including three brothers, who comprise the foundation's board of directors. They are **Alex Kuvshnikov** (1988) of Antioch, Ill.; **Manuel Contag** (1994) of Quito, Ecuador; **John Kuvshnikov** (1995) of Grayslake, Ill.; **Miguel Casas** (1995) of Barcelona, Spain; **Kimio Inoue** (1995) of San Jose, Calif.; **Mark Kuvshnikov** (1996) of Okpo, South Korea; **Norio Tsuchiya** (1996) of Dallas and **Matthew Smith** (1995) of Lynden, Wash.

These men, brought together at LeTourneau, have channeled their love for God and each other into a foundation that awards scholarships to needy Christian students. Established in 2001, The Armada Foundation was officially recognized as a tax exempt organization in early 2002. The LeTourneau scholarship is only part of the foundation's multi-faceted vision that also includes providing grants to the most disadvantaged Christian schools around the world and provides scholarships to Christian students wherever they desire to attend and achieve their full potential.

The Armada Foundation takes an active role in awarding its scholarship, which is open to prospective foreign students or missionary kids, and has plans to continue sponsoring one or more students each year. For more information about The Armada Foundation, contact Bryan Benson at the address below.

"The mission of The Armada Foundation is to further God's kingdom by sharing the love of His Son, Jesus Christ, by providing support to individuals seeking an education and to educational institutions that serve God with excellence," said co-founder John Kuvshnikov. In 2003, Sean Woodward of Lovell, Wyo., a freshman mechanical engineering major, was LeTourneau University's first scholarship recipient. ■



John Blatchley, daughters Lily and Bella, and wife Sookhee.

For more information on how you can make a difference in the lives of LeTourneau students, contact: Bryan Benson, Director of Development, LeTourneau University, P.O. Box 7333, Longview, TX 75607, or visit our Web site at [www.letu.edu/plannedgiving](http://www.letu.edu/plannedgiving) • (800) 259-5388, (903) 233-3809



University, did post-doctoral research training at the University of Kansas Medical Center. His doctoral research interest was in trying to tell how well a dog could hear by reading the dog's brain waves. His post-doctoral research involved the mechanical properties of individual hearty cells.

Gonzalez, or "Gonzo" as his favorite students call him, began the biomedical engineering concentration at LeTourneau University after arriving as a mechanical engineering professor in the summer of 1996.

"I wasn't promised a BME program when I took the job here," Gonzalez said. "But I was told that if we got a grant for funding, we could start it."

Developed by Gonzalez and Leiffer, the initial NSF grant supported the creation of LeTourneau's biomedical engineering program. That grant paid for equipment, program development and attendance at professional conferences where students present results of their research.

Through a close mentoring relationship, Gonzalez and his students have earned 38 regional and national awards for their work and designs during the past seven years. Gonzalez also has been nominated for a Piper Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Besides being the first Christian university in the world to begin a concentration in biomedical engineering, LeTourneau University's program also is unique because research is done by undergraduate students.

"LeTourneau is able to give undergraduate students the kind of biomedical research experience other schools offer only to graduate students," Gonzalez said. "We have research equipment that many graduate engineering programs lack, and without a question, we are more successful at integrating research and education than many schools.

"In the Glaske Center, we have an excellent biomechanics laboratory, with motion-analysis capabilities, floor-



*Biomedical engineering students Tim Stafford, Betsy Hunt and Glen Edwards calibrate the new generation "intelligent prosthetic arm" that moves more like a real arm.*

mounted force plate, very sophisticated software and excellent computational resources," he said. "Our welding engineering program has a scanning electron microscope and an excellent robotics laboratory, which very few pure undergraduate engineering schools have."

These strengths may be why nearly half of Gonzalez' research students go on to graduate schools all across the country.

"I am driven to inspire the next generation of students to become talented engineering scientists, some of whom have the capabilities to become the Newtons, Einsteins and Edisons of their generation," Gonzalez said. "Undergraduate research is the key instrument I use to encourage the challenging process of discovery."

Leiffer agrees that the intelligent prosthetic arm project requires students to stretch themselves as young researchers.

"There are engineering projects we could do that students could solve more easily," he said. "Instead of having a system that you know

everything about, this is a system we don't understand all that well. It is not easily mathematically defined. You can't write a mathematical equation for the whole biological control of the arm. Instead, it is all based on experimental data to know what signals should control what motions."

With all the high technology solutions Gonzalez and his students are seeking, they also have interests in providing low technology solutions for Third-World prosthetics.

"We know that as children lose limbs in Africa and the Sudan, they must be able to self-adapt prosthetic devices to their growing bodies because they don't have convenient access to medical facilities," Gonzalez said. "They live in primitive huts in very remote areas. Missionaries in these countries have very little time to devote to solve these problems due to the high demands placed on them, but they know what the real challenges are. We have the time, energy and intellectual capital, but we need them to share the challenges with us and give us time to come up with workable solutions. We don't yet know much about Third World prosthetics, but we can learn. I'm convinced we can make a difference."

Gonzalez says he measures his success not on his own creativity, but on his students' achievements.

"My role as a mentor is to give them feedback, to provide milestones of achievement," he said. "It's not just the research we're doing, and it's not the grants we get or even the publications. Those are all nice things, and they are the fruits of our labor. But the thing that gives me the most joy and satisfaction is seeing these students mature as engineering scientists on a personal and professional level.

"They come in as sophomores. They're young. They don't know what to think. They don't know where they are going," he said. "They leave here with a passion and a purpose.

"I believe that ultimately I will indirectly impact the world through science, but it won't be me doing it, it will be through them," Gonzalez said. "That gives me the most satisfaction. That's the thing I get excited about." ■



# Spread The Word

About LeTourneau University

Tell your church and your community about LeTourneau University by placing an insert in your church bulletin.

These one-page, two-sided, full-color inserts describe the quality Christian education LeTourneau University offers.

To order, call LETU Alumni Director Allison Gardner at 1-800-259-ALUM (2586) and tell her your name, address, the name of your church, the dimensions of your church bulletin and how many to send to you. We will mail them to you ready to be inserted into your regular church bulletin.



# LeTourneau University

NOW  
P.O. Box 8001  
Longview, TX 75607

Periodical  
Postage Paid  
at  
Longview, Texas